

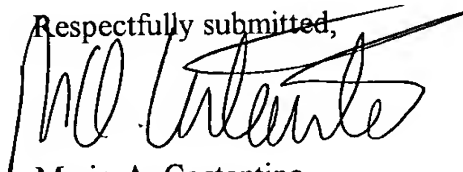
REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending. By this Amendment, the specification is amended to add the continuity data.

The Examiner is requested to consider the references identified in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith.

Examination and allowance in due course are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565

MAC/ccs

Date: October 20, 2003

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